

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 901  
By Swafford

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Clyde Bowman upon being named Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those outstanding citizens of our state who have committed themselves to sustaining the renewable natural resources of Tennessee in a manner that provides economic enrichment while preserving valuable resources and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, one such dedicated conservationist is Clyde Bowman, owner and operator of Bowman Tree Farm in Cumberland County; and

WHEREAS, a native of Cumberland County whose family has deep roots in the region, Clyde Bowman grew up around the timber and wood-using facilities at his father's sawmill, having set his first loblolly and shortleaf pine stand fifty years ago; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bowman became a tree farmer in 1985, taking on the great challenge of working with the poor hardwood soils of the Cumberland Plateau, where most of the work has been done by his own hand using his own equipment; and

WHEREAS, when the Southern Pine beetle swept through Tennessee in 1998, the Bowman property and surrounding areas were devastated; Clyde Bowman harvested what he could and made the decision to replant the 273-acre devastated area in loblolly pine in order to prevent scrubby hardwood and volunteer Virginia pine from quickly and surely reclaiming the site; and

WHEREAS, due to the intensive management needed, Mr. Bowman prepared the site and replanted in rotations, planting loblolly pine on sixty acres the first year, on seventy-five acres the second year, and, finally, on eighty-five acres the third year, until his entire tract was transformed into a productive, young, and healthy forest; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Bowman planted the trees on a ten-foot by ten-foot spacing, realizing that overcrowding a loblolly pine stand could cause weakness and environmental stress on the trees, and thus make the trees more susceptible to diseases and the Southern Pine beetle in the future. He also made sure there was a firebreak around the entire tree farm, and good roads where emergency equipment could operate easily and safely; water bars were properly installed on the roads, landings were seeded with wildlife grasses, and, where the Southern Pine beetle had wiped out the streamside management zones, longer-lived white pine seedlings were planted over one hundred feet on either side of the drains; and

WHEREAS, when looking at the land around the Bowman Tree Farm that was not managed after the Southern Pine beetle epidemic, it is now clear, a few years later, that the Bowman property would have ended up as Mr. Bowman predicted, a “non-productive low-quality hardwood/Virginia Pine thicket,” of no benefit to wildlife and of no use for any future timber. Fortunately, Clyde Bowman’s voice at the Cumberland County Forestry Association (CCFA) meetings influenced five landowners to replant more than three hundred acres of the devastated land between 2001 and 2005; his offer to share his knowledge of site preparation and planting persuaded even the most inexperienced landowners to take up the challenge of replanting the area that was once devastated and non-productive; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Bowman is devoted to renewing timber resources with great integrity and, at the same time, values the environment and takes pride in land stewardship. He strives to pass on this ideology to the next generation of Bowmans who will carry on the legacy of his tree farm; his sons and grandson will be the third and fourth generation of ownership; and

WHEREAS, making the land productive again provides a wonderful sense of peace to Mr. Bowman as he walks through his tree farm, and he wishes to pass that peace along to his family; he does everything with his family in mind and is immensely proud of his three children; daughter, Jillie, and her husband, Glen; son, Greg, and his wife, Marcia; and son, Nick, and his wife, Linda; five granddaughters, Megan, Shelby, Kari, Brittany, and Caroline; and grandson, Nicholas, Jr., will be the fourth generation Bowman to become a tree farmer; and

WHEREAS, successfully balancing his great concern for economic needs and environmental stewardship, Clyde Bowman is the fitting recipient of the Outstanding Tree

Farmer of the Year award, and it is appropriate that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor this outstanding gentleman; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Clyde Bowman upon being named Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association, and thank him for his dedicated and thorough understanding of our State's precious renewable resources — our forestland and wildlife habitat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Clyde Bowman and his family our best wishes for every success and happiness in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.